

R E M A R K S

Careful review and examination of the subject application are noted and appreciated. Applicant's representative thanks Examiner Cox for the indication of allowable matter.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

The objection to claim 2 has been obviated by cancellation of claim 2. Claims 7 and 8 have been amended for proper dependency in view of the cancellation of claim 2. As such, no new matter has been introduced.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112

The rejection of claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 10-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

The rejection of claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Friedrich et al. '599 (hereinafter Friedrich) has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn. Claim 13 has been amended to include subject matter believed to be similar to claim 14 which is allowed (see page 6, section 13 of the Office Action). As such, claim 13 is now fully patentable over the cited reference.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103

The rejection of claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Friedrich has been obviated by appropriate amendment and should be withdrawn. Claim 21 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 4 as presented in the Amendment filed April 16, 2003. Claim 4 depended, either directly or indirectly, from claims 1 and 3 and, consequently, included the limitations of claims 1 and 3. The Examiner indicated that the claim 4 as presented in the Amendment filed April 16, 2003 was allowable (see page 4, lines 13-17 of the Office Action mailed July 8, 2003 (paper no. 11)). As such, the presently claimed invention is fully patentable over the cited reference and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 14 has been amended for consistency.

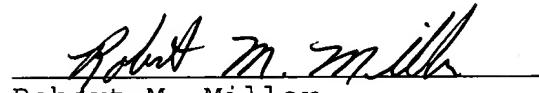
Accordingly, the present application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is respectfully solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully invited to call the Applicants' representative should it be deemed beneficial to further advance prosecution of the application.

If any additional fees are due, please charge our office
Account No. 50-0541.

Respectfully submitted,

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